

MCCORD CLAIMANTS AGAIN SEEK RELIEF

Bill Favored by One President, Vetoed by Another.

SUIT DATES FROM CIVIL WAR

Loss to Contractor of the Monitor Etiah Grew Out of the Rapid Change in Prices—Revolution in Navy.

Relief has again been asked from Congress by representatives of the unfortunate contractor, Charles W. McCord, the builder of the light draft monitor Etiah, one of the first of the ironclad vessels to be constructed by the United States after the famous fight of the Monitor and Merrimack in Hampton Roads.

The matter has been considered at almost every session since the Fifty-first Congress and has been favored by one President and vetoed by another. Thus far at the present session a bill providing for relief has been introduced and has just received consideration by the House Committee on War Claims, which has reported it with a recommendation for favorable action by the House.

Loss to Contractor.

The loss to the contractor grew out of the rapid change in prices caused by the close of the civil war. The invention by Ericsson created a revolution in naval construction, and after the duel between the Merrimack and Monitor in Hampton Roads, it was clear that all future warship building was to be on entirely new lines.

Accordingly the Navy Department, in the latter part of 1862 and early in 1863, contracted for twenty light draft monitors. Knowing that many changes were likely to be made, the new armorclads having just been invented, the Navy Department reserved the right to make changes, the contractor to be paid for any extra cost resulting therefrom.

McCord secured the contract under these terms for the building of the Etiah in 1863. Owing to delays the vessel was not completed until two years later, instead of within eight months, as was at first believed possible. So many changes, in fact, were made that the cost of the vessel when complete was about double the contract price. The result was that the contractor was ruined. Soon after the vessel was completed he went into bankruptcy. His assets were sold and among them was a claim for the extras on the Etiah.

The purchasers of the claim brought suit in the Court of Claims. While it was pending McCord died, and it was commonly reported that death was caused largely by grief over business losses.

Negative Decision.

When the case was heard the United States, as the defendant, produced a receipt which purported to be for \$26,653.17 as final payment for all extras. The owners of the claim had no knowledge of the existence or meaning of the receipt, and McCord having died it has never yet been explained. The court was of the opinion that there were certain equities in the case, but in view of the receipt decided against the claimants.

Following this decision a bill was introduced and passed by the Fifty-first Congress providing for the submitting of the claim again to the court and giving the court equitable jurisdiction. When the bill reached President Harrison he returned it without approval and with a message that he did not see any need for a retrial in view of there being no new evidence and that action by Congress was the real method for relief.

In the second session of the same Congress a bill making a direct appropriation of \$174,448.75 was favorably reported to the House and passed by the Senate. Later the House passed the measure, with slight changes, but the conference committee could not agree. Again in the Fifty-fourth Congress a bill was introduced in both houses. The Senate committee reported it favorably, but the Senate bill was not taken up by the House, which inserted an item for the appropriation in the general deficiency bill.

Vetoed by Cleveland.

When this bill reached President Cleveland he vetoed it. Among the items to which he objected was that for the Etiah claim.

Senator Burrows, in a report, replied to the President's arguments for his veto and the bill has been pending in various ways in Congress ever since. The Senate Committee on Claims made seven favorable reports upon the measure and the Senate has passed it no less than five different times.

In the Fifty-fifth Congress an adverse report was made on it by the House Committee on War Claims. Since that time, however, a number of similar cases have been sent to the Court of Claims by Congress with equitable jurisdiction extended and have been decided in favor of the claimants.

In view of this action by the court the House Committee on War Claims has recommended favorable action on the measure by the present Congress.

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES.

C. C. Rogers, the District Disbursing Officer, has completed a new roster of the employees of the municipal government. There are a few less than 5,000 names on the rolls. The lists are for purposes of reference in connection with the bi-monthly payment of the District workers.

Mr. Rogers announced yesterday that he would pay on December 24 the money due on December 31, so all can have funds for Christmas. This rule includes the members of the Fire Department, school teachers, and the pensioners of the Police and Fire Departments.

Small's Flowers for Christmas.

J. H. Small & Sons, Florists, 14th and G sts., Washington; 1132 Broadway and Waldorf Astoria, N. Y. American Beauty roses, violets, carnations, all Christmas floral novelties. Dec. 21, 22, 23.

APPOINTED INSPECTOR OF GAS AND METERS

Elmer C. Runyan Selected by District Commissioners.

Elmer C. Runyan was yesterday appointed United States Inspector of Gas and Meters for the District of Columbia, by President Roosevelt. The action of the President was pursuant to a recommendation by Commissioner Macfarland forwarded to him several days ago.

The office of inspector of gas and meters was established in 1874, and while the duties of the position have to do with local matters alone, the appointment remains with the President under the terms of the old law.

Mr. Runyan succeeds Dr. S. Calvert Ford, who has held the position since the establishment of the office in 1874. He resigned a few days ago on account of failing health.

It is understood that Congress will be asked to pass a law making the inspector of gas and meters an officer under the District government, with the appointment vested in the Commissioners. The anomaly of having the appointment of a purely local official in the President is due largely to the fact that this is the first time attention has been called to the matter by a vacancy in the position. The inspector of gas and meters is under the personal supervision of Commissioner Macfarland, and submits weekly reports to him.

Mr. Runyan is a native of Michigan. He graduated in chemistry at the University of Michigan, and, coming to Washington, took a postgraduate course at the Columbian University, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science. Immediately after taking this course he was appointed to a position in the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, with which he has now been connected for the past ten years. At present Mr. Runyan is chief of a division in the bureau.

Dr. Harvey Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, recommended Mr. Runyan for appointment to the new position, speaking in the highest terms of his abilities as a practical chemist.

The salary of the office is \$2,000 per annum.

MARKSMEN FOR ARMY.

The board of army officers for the revision of the small arms firing regulations, now in session at the War Department, has recommended to the Secretary of War that a special class of marksmen be established in the army to be known as "expert riflemen," who will receive as extra pay \$1 a month.

JURY AWARDS RICH COAL LANDS TO LANDER HEIRS

Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company Will Appeal.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 20.—An important verdict was rendered this morning by a jury which has been hearing evidence all this week in connection with a suit entered by the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company against the Lander heirs in which coal lands in Newport township, valued at \$150,000, were involved. The evidence went back to the original deeds of title issued in 1769. Judge Ferris yesterday gave a very clear and forcible charge, and this morning the jury came in with this verdict:

"We, the jury in the case wherein the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company is plaintiff, and William H. Hines and the Lander heirs are defendants, do find a verdict for the defendants for all the lands in dispute."

An appeal will be taken.

MOVEMENTS OF NAVAL VESSELS.

The cruiser Cincinnati, the gunboat Scorpion, and the torpedo boat Newark, have arrived at San Juan; the battleships Illinois (flagship of Rear Admiral Crowninshield) and Indiana, and the gunboat Hist, at St. Thomas, and the cruisers Montgomery and Topeka at Ponce. The cruiser Newark has sailed from San Juan for Culebra on her way to Curacao. The torpedo boats Thornton and Biddle have sailed also from San Juan for Culebra.

These arrivals and departures are in accordance with the Christmas holiday distribution of the war games fleet, made by Admiral Dewey.

The armored cruiser New York (flagship of Rear Admiral Casey) has arrived at Santa Barbara, and the tug Nezinecot at Portsmouth, N. H.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

O bells of Christmas, golden
And silvery of throat,
Your tuneful tidings olden
Adown the air let float!
To valleys Galilean
Beyond the gray-green sea
Be wafted your peace-pean,
Your clear love harmony!

O bells of Christmas, ending
Man's doubt and his despair,
With your sweet notes ascending
God blended praise and prayer.
Sorrow your sound assuages;
And joy your peal foretells;
To all the opening years
Ring out, O Christmas bells!
—Clinton Scollard, in New Orleans Times-Democrat.

J. KARR'S SONS.

(Note the New Store Number, 1225 F St.)

A Specialty With Us—

DIAMONDS and
PRECIOUS-
STONE
JEWELRY.

The gift intended to be made in such a line can be selected with the utmost confidence from our collection—because we are expert judges and reliable retailers. And because, being specialists with us, we carry a most extensive stock of stones and the very latest designs of setting and mounting.

There is such a thing as "reasonable" prices for them, as your investigation of our prices will convince you.

There's no obligation to buy—but there's a pressing invitation extended you to measure the opportunities that are offered here for supplying the demands of the gift-list.

Gift Suggestions:

Besides the Diamonds and Precious-stone Jewelry—we have an immense assortment of other unique and valuable items that make most appropriate gifts—

Watches,
Gold Jewelry,
Silverware,
Silver Novelties,
Desk Silver,
Toilet Silver,
Clocks,
Bronzes,
Electric Bronzes,
Bric-a-Brac,
Art Goods,
Umbrellas and Fans,
Opera Glasses,
Leather Novelties.

The "Safe Jewelry Store" guarantees prices as well as qualities and service.

Open Evenings Until Christmas.

J. KARR'S SONS,
1225 F Street.

"Near Thirteenth."

DELICIOUS Candies for the Holidays.

Church
and
Sunday-
School
Orders
Promptly
Filled.

As usual, we are splendidly prepared for the Holiday trade, and our assortment of confections is greater than ever.

Chocolates, Bonbons, Creams
and all kinds of fancy candies. We shall put up candies in handsome boxes, to mail or express to friends. Our name upon all we handle is sufficient guarantee for

ABSOLUTE PURITY.

EARLY ORDERS REQUESTED.

"SHEETZ," CORNER
TENTH & F.

CHILD FALLS UNDER CAR AND IS BADLY HURT

Little Mildred McShea Sustains Serious Injuries.

Mildred, the four-year-old daughter of William McShea, living at 2302 N Street, was seriously injured last night at 7:10 o'clock by falling between the motor car and trailer of train No. 207 on the Capital Traction line. Before she could be released from her perilous position the combined assistance of a number of traction employees, citizens, and policemen was required.

With her father the little one was on her way to the central portion of the city. They boarded the cars at Thirty-third and M Streets. In passing from

one car to the other the child fell between them and was dragged about fifteen feet before the cars were stopped. Then it was discovered the child could not be removed until the car could be raised.

Private Hess, of the Metropolitan police, summoned the street car employees and with them and a number of citizens the girl was rescued. Rather than await the arrival of the ambulance, Policeman Hess took the child in his arms and hurried to the Georgetown Hospital, where surgical aid was secured. It was ascertained that she had sustained a severe scalp wound and a deep cut on her left cheek. She will recover.

The Santa Claus of Flowers has his headquarters at "Joe's." His floral specimens are perfect—his American Beauties peerless. 1224 F.

TWO GREAT TERMINALS TO COST SIXTY MILLIONS

Pennsylvania to Build Here and at New York at Same Time.

Officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad are confident that the year 1903 will see the construction of both the New York and Washington terminals well advanced. The estimated cost of these two projects is \$60,000,000, \$50,000,000 of which will be spent in New York.

The McMillan bill, which provides for the building of the Washington terminal, and which passed the Senate at the long session, has just passed the House. It now goes back to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments offered. President Cassatt is satisfied with the

amendments, and is sure that the bill will become a law in a few weeks. It is known that President Roosevelt favors it.

The bill provides that the site of the station shall be on Massachusetts Avenue, and that it shall cost not less than \$4,000,000. The total cost of the station, tunnels, and approaches will be about \$10,000,000. The plans for the station have been drawn by D. H. Burnham, architect of the Chicago World's Fair.

All the plans for the terminal are far advanced, and contracts will be let as soon as the President signs the bill.

TO DRIVE PATROL WAGON.

The District Commissioners yesterday appointed J. J. Kelly driver in the Metropolitan Police Force.

William C. Hill has been appointed orderly in the Washington Asylum Hospital at a compensation of \$25 a month.

Lansburgh & Bro.

Open Late Until Christmas.

Lansburgh & Bro.

We Are Prepared for A Busy Monday.

THOUSANDS of Christmas shoppers will doubtless be with us tomorrow. Most remarkable preparations have been made throughout the store. Well-trained, courteous salespeople will do their best to make your shopping comfortable and satisfactory. Each of our 52 separate departments offers unprecedented holiday opportunities. We are determined to make a clean sweep of all Christmas merchandise, and to attain that end, Monday has been set aside as a gala day.

Store Will Remain Open Evenings Until Christmas.

Dress Goods and Silks—Very Practical Gifts Abound in This Section

From these items a safe and satisfactory choice can be made. As to the prices, if we had to buy the goods today the price would be considerably higher:

\$1 Cheviot Homespun, 59c

56-inch All-Wool Homespun Cheviots, colors dark grays, and blue; usual price, \$1.00. Special, 59c.

\$2 Imported Cloth, \$1.59

52-inch Imported Broadcloth, 50 shades, including beautiful modes, browns, blues, grays, greens, and blacks; permanent finish. Special, yard, \$1.59.

\$1.50 Zibeline Cloth, \$1.19

52-inch All-wool Zibeline, colors blues, grays, green, garnet, and black; usual price, \$1.50. Special, \$1.19.

50c All-wool Plaids, 25c.

38-inch All-wool Cheviot and Camel's Hair Plaids; a great variety of color combinations; some are suitable for children's dresses, and many make splendid separate skirts. We place on sale about 50 pieces, and the price, instead of 50c, will be, 25c

\$3 English Kersey, \$2.39

56-inch All-wool Satin-face Kersays, colors tans, modes, brown, blues, grays, red, green, and black; steamed garnet. Special, yard, \$2.39.

50c Nun's Veiling, 39c

40-inch All-wool Nun's Veiling and Batiste, colors are white, cream, light blue, pink, Nile, old rose, helio, light gray, dark gray, old blue, goblin blue, biscuit, mode, tan, brown, russet, hunter's green, cardinal, garnet, marine, navy, black, etc. Worth every penny of 50c. To go at, yard, 39c

\$2.25 Waist Patterns, \$1.95

1,000 Waist Lengths, comprising such fabrics at all-wool satin challoes, crepe cloth, mohair, Persian stripes, granite stripes; many all-creams in Jacquard weaves; also an abundance of black and white effects. These are all fresh, crisp, new goods, and every style a desirable one, "no job lots." These sold formerly at \$2.25. To go at, for full 3-yard waist length \$1.95

Black for a Xmas Present

Black Mohair Brilliantines; 8 yards, full pattern; 38 inches. Special \$2.64

Black for a Xmas Present

Silk Henrietta, silk finish; the finish and dye is perfect; 8 yards for a pattern; 38 inches. Special \$2.64

Black for a Xmas Present

Black All-Wool Cheviot; seven yards for a pattern; 38 inches. Special \$2.80

Black for a Xmas Present

Black All-wool Imported Serge; soft, nice finish; 8 yards for a pattern; 38 inches. Special \$2.40

Silks.

\$1 Handsome Printed Foulards, 75c.

In neat styles and polka dots. The newest material for your shirt waist suit, in the latest shades. A \$1.00 value, for \$1.50 Colored Moire Antiques, 98c

We have secured the following shades in moire, antique, leghorn, light blue, pink, gray, cardinal, cream, black, and white. These goods are an exceptional value and well worth \$1.50. Special price \$2.19 4-yc Patterns, \$2.19

Handsome Silk Waist Patterns, nicely boxed, consisting of plain Royal Taffetas, in all leading shades. Also figured Louisines.

89c Crepe de Chine, 59c

The leading soft material for entire costumes, in light gray, rose, pink, light blue, old rose, Nile, black, cream, and white.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES IN

Women's Walking Suits and Skirts.

A splendid chance to purchase valuable and sensible Christmas gifts at much less than regular prices.

\$32.50, \$27.50, \$25.00, and \$23.50 Women's Walking Suits, \$17.95.

Man-tailored; the latest cloths; the latest styles; only one or two of a style.

\$19.50 Norfolk Walking Suits, \$14.95.

In navy blue, long jacket effect, lined with an excellent quality of satin. Sizes 32 to 42.

Three Great Skirt Values.

To go on sale at 9 o'clock Monday. None to be sold before that time.

\$12.50 Black Peau de Soie Silk Skirts, \$5.90.

Black Peau de Soie Silk Skirt, with percale drop; 2 clusters of six rows each, accordion pleated ruffles at bottom; headed by quilting of gauze ribbon. There are but eight in this lot.

\$13.50 Silk Taffeta Skirt, \$8.75

Eleven All-silk Taffeta Skirts, with percale drop, beautifully trimmed with silk braid, forming panel effect, graduated box pleat at bottom.

\$5.98 and \$6.98 Dress Skirts, \$4.85.

Your selection of any Dress Skirt in our stock that sells regularly at \$5.98 and \$6.98 for \$4.85.

Holiday Gloves.

Gloves have a popularity peculiarly their own with gift-givers—and they are always most acceptable to the recipient. We are showing a splendid variety of the right sort at the right price.

Women's Suede and

Glacé Kid Gloves, in all shades. Special \$1.00

Men's Lined and Unlined Mocha and Kid Gloves, in tan, red, and gray. For \$1.00

Women's One-clasp Pique Gloves, with "Paris point" embroidery. Tan, beaver, brown, red, and white. For \$1.00

Men's Unlined and Silk-lined Mocha Gloves, tan, brown, and gray; Adler's make. For \$1.50

Women's One and Two-clasp Pique Walking Gloves, in the English tans and reds. For \$1 and \$1.50

Fownes' Gloves for Women, in all the newest shades, with "Paris point" embroidery. For \$1.50

Women's French Suede Gloves, in mode, tan, gray, and black, with "Paris point" embroidery. For \$1.50

Fownes' Gloves for men, in the new tan shades. For \$2.00

Men's, Women's, and Children's Golf Gloves, for—

25c, 35c, 39c, 50c

420 to 426
Seventh St.

LANSBURGH & BRO.

417 to 425
Eighth St.